

Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2011-0030-EA

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

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/ s / Don McClure  
Assistant Field Manager, Kingman  
Don McClure

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10/28/2011  
Date

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**DECISION RECORD**

**NEPA Document Number:** DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2010-0030-EA

**Decision:**

The BLM will develop a water source for wildlife within bighorn sheep habitat to ensure a year-round water source. The development will include a ground level sloping water trough, two 3000 gallon water tanks, one mile of Numex pipe, and a pipe-rail fence to allow bighorn access to water and exclude livestock.

An 1 ½ inch Numex pipe will be placed on the ground for approximately 1 mile to connect the proposed tank and trough to an existing livestock well and additional proposed tank. Water will be pumped from the existing well and proposed 3000 gallon storage tank up to the wildlife water. The pipe will be buried for the first 200 yards from the well to protect it from being crushed by vehicles. The pipe will be buried in disturbed areas where little or no perennial vegetation grows. The pipe will be pulled by hand or horse up an undisturbed valley bottom to the tank. A road will not be bladed to access the construction site but vehicles will travel off road for approximately 100 yards. Vegetation will be avoided if possible. After construction is complete the road tracks will be raked and the access from the existing road will be blocked. Total surface disturbance is estimated to be less than 0.1 acres. The 3000 gallon tank at the wildlife water will be partially buried and painted to blend with the landscape. The steel pipe for the fence will be self-weathering steel that will oxidize and blend with the surroundings. The fence will be built to allow access for bighorn sheep while excluding livestock. State protected plant species will be avoided or transplanted and all disturbed area will be scarified upon completion of the project.

The project will be surveyed for migratory birds and desert tortoise prior to beginning construction. Active bird nests and tortoise burrows will be avoided. A monitor for cultural resources will be on site while the pipe is being buried in case any artifacts are uncovered.

**Rationale for Decision:** The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plans. The EA revealed no significant impacts to the environment as a result of implementing the proposed action. Further the Proposed action will provide water for wildlife in an area where water is not currently available.

Stipulations: None

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/ s / Don McClure  
Assistant Field Manager, Kingman

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10/28/2011  
Date

# KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE SCOPING FORM

**Proposal:** Basin Well Wildlife Water

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0030-EA      GM01 & 19V  
NEPA Document Number      RMP Implementation No.

Medium  
AWP: Work Category and Task#

**Land Description:** T.22 N., R.20 W., sec. 35, NW4

Applicant: BLM

Authorization: EA and Decision Record

INVOLVEMENT: Indicate in the left column which disciplines need to provide information into the EA.

Input (X)	Discipline	Signature
	Lands	
	Minerals	
x	Range	/ s / Abe Clark 08/18/2011
	Wild Horse and Burro	
	General Recreation	
x	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	/ s / Tim Watkins 10/28/2010
	Wilderness	
	Soils	
	Surface and Groundwater Quality/Water Rights	
	Air Quality	
x	Wildlife	/ s / Ammon Wilhelm 08/19/2011
x	Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals <i>(No T&amp;E in project area)</i>	/ s / Ammon Wilhelm 08/19/2011
x	Migratory Birds	
	Surface Protection	
	Hazardous Materials	
	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	
x	Visual Resources	/ s / Ammon Wilhelm 08/19/2011
	Socio-Economics/Environmental Justice	
	General Botany/Noxious Weeds	
	Energy Policy	

Writer: / s / Ammon Wilhelm

Date: 08/19/2011

Environmental Coordinator: / s / David Brock

Date: 08/19/2011

Field Manager: / s / Don McClure

Date: 08/19/2011

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2011-0030-EA

Lease/Serial Case File No.

**Date: September 23, 2011**

Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: Basin Well Wildlife Water

Location of Proposed Action: Water tank/trough: Township 22N, Range 20W, SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34  
Pipeline: Township 22N, Range 20W, NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 35, N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 34

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:**

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide a reliable year-round water source for bighorn sheep and other wildlife in Township 22N Range 20W Section 34.

**Decision to be made:** The BLM will decide whether or not to install the proposed wildlife water.

### **CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved March 1995. The following RMP decisions apply:

GM-13/I- Improve wildlife habitat by providing more forage, cover, and water (RMP page 461 and objective from the Cerbat/Black Mountains (1978) grazing EIS (Program Document page 1).

WL 17/II Activities that harm lambing or rearing of bighorn sheep would be excluded from December 1 to May 31 (Page 84). Activities include construction stemming from ROWs, range developments, recreational actions, mineral leasing etc. (pg. 576, Appendix. 30, MFP decision WL-1, # 11).

WL 18/I - Ungulates would be managed to minimize conflicts among species in the Black Mountains (pg. 576, Appendix. 30, MFP decision WL-1, #3).

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES REGULATIONS OR OTHER PLANS:**

Gediondia allotment management plan (AMP) objectives: Provide for wildlife use on all livestock waters on the Federal Range, increase deer populations, increase bighorn sheep populations.

Black Mountains Bighorn sheep Management plan (AGFD 2007): This location is within Dry Area #5 and AGFD recommends improving water distribution for bighorns within this area.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The BLM would develop a water source for wildlife within bighorn sheep habitat to ensure a year-round water source. The development would include a ground level sloping water trough, two 3000 gallon water tanks, one mile of Numex pipe, and a pipe-rail fence to allow bighorn access to water and exclude livestock. An 1 ½ inch

numex pipe would be placed on the ground for approximately 1 mile to connect the proposed tank and trough to an existing livestock well and additional proposed 3000 tank. Water would be pumped from the existing well and proposed 3000 gallon storage tank up to the wildlife water. The pipe would be buried for the first 200 yards from the well to protect it from being crushed by vehicles. The pipe would be buried in disturbed areas where little or no perennial vegetation grows. The pipe would be pulled by hand or horse up an undisturbed valley bottom to the tank. A road would not be bladed to access the construction site but vehicles would travel off road for approximately 100 yards. Vegetation would be avoided if possible. After construction is complete the road tracks would be raked and the access from the existing road would be blocked. Total surface disturbance is estimated to be less than 0.1 acres. The 3000 gallon tank at the wildlife water would be partially buried and painted to blend with the landscape. The steel pipe for the fence would be self-weathering steel that would oxidize and blend with the surroundings. The fence would be built to allow access for bighorn sheep while excluding livestock. State protected plant species would be avoided or transplanted and all disturbed area would be scarified upon completion of the project. The project would be surveyed for migratory birds and desert tortoise prior to beginning construction. Active bird nests and tortoise burrows would be avoided. A monitor for cultural resources would be on site while the pipe is being buried in case any artifacts are uncovered.

## **DESCRIPTION OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would not install the wildlife water.

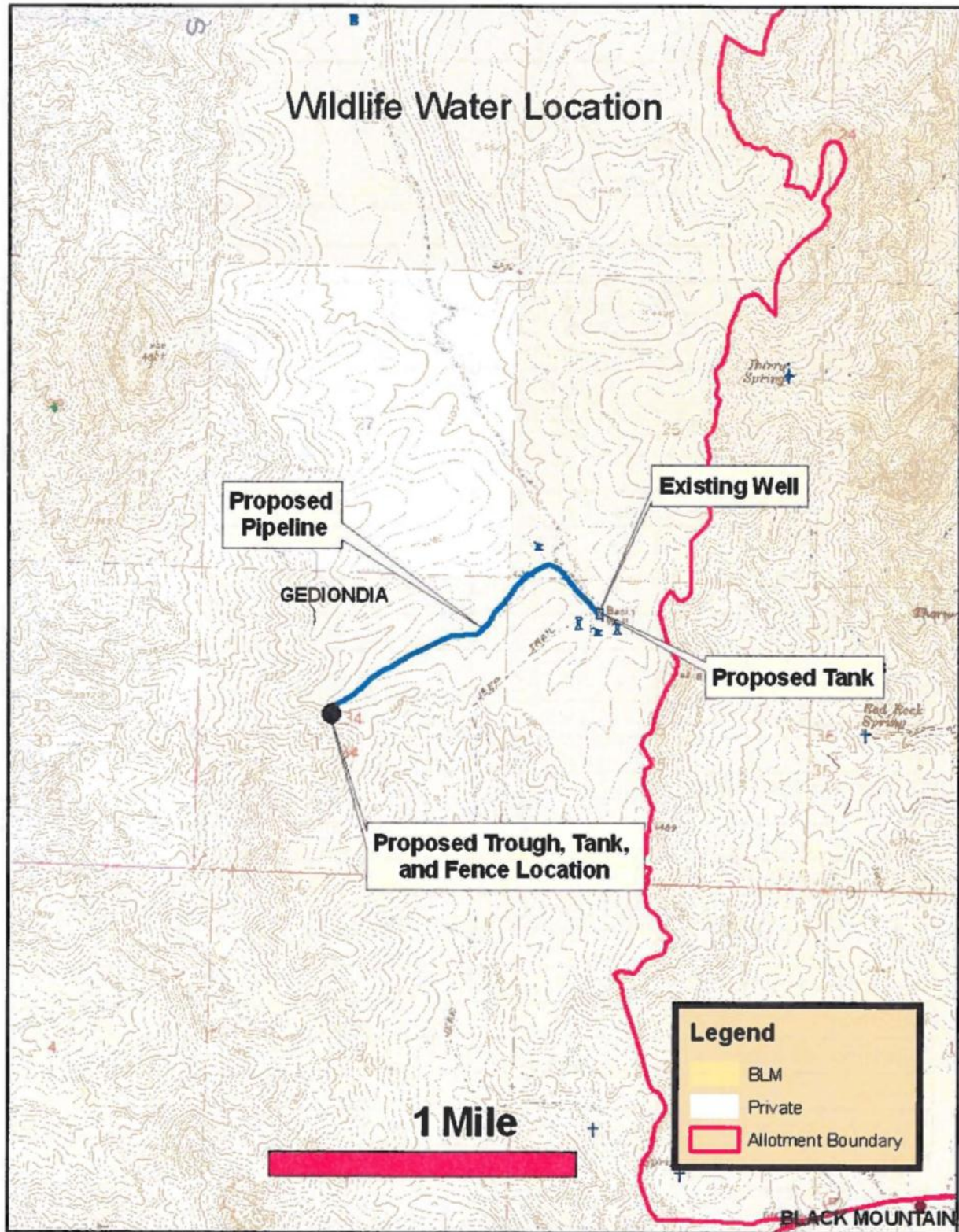
## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED.**

BLM considered installing an apron catchment to collect rain instead of pumping water from basin well but this option would require more surface disturbance and was almost 4 times more expensive than the proposed action.

### General Setting

The project area would be located in the Black Mountains approximately twenty miles west of Kingman, Arizona, on the north side of State Highway 68. The area consists of rugged, mountainous terrain. The location of the proposed wildlife water is on the edge of a mesa at 4350ft elevation with very steep terrain to the west and the mesa to the east. The vegetation in the project area is a Mohave Desert scrub community and common plant species include black brush, flattop buckwheat, Mormon tea, and globe mallow. The ecological site is Volcanic Hills 10-13in p.z. (R030XC332AZ). The soil in the project area typically well drained, shallow (10 to 20 inches to bedrock), extremely gravelly sandy loams (zibate family). Soils in the project area are generally coarse and undeveloped.

Map 1 Project Location



## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

PROJECT RESOURCE review			
Resources/Issues Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*	✓		
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*	✓		
Cultural and Historic* +	✓		
Environmental Justice* / Socioeconomics	✓		
Floodplains*	✓		
Grazing		✓	
Hazardous or Solid Waste*	✓		
Invasive and Non-native Species*		✓	
Land Use	✓		
Migratory Birds*			✓
Native American Religious Concerns*	✓		
Prime and Unique Farmland*	✓		
Soils		✓	
Threatened and Endangered Species*	✓		
Vegetation			✓
Visual Resources			✓
Water Quality*	✓		
Wetland or Riparian Zones*	✓		
Wild and Scenic Rivers*	✓		
Wilderness*	✓		
Wild Horse and Burro		✓	
Wildlife			✓
* Consideration Required By Law or Executive Order			

Notes:

+ Cultural Resources:

The proposed pipeline route was surveyed on July 25, 2011 by the Kingman BLM Archeologist. No



cultural resources of significance were observed. However a monitor would be on site while the pipe is being buried in case any artifacts are uncovered.

Present and Not Affected:

#### Grazing/Range

The proposed wildlife water would be located within the Gediondia allotment. The allotment is permitted for 50 Animal Units (AU) yearlong which would not change if the proposed action were implemented. The permittee typically runs a cow calf operation with almost all of the livestock use occurring to the north and east of the proposed wildlife water. Forage species are mostly ungrazed at the proposed trough site which is over one mile from the nearest livestock water. Livestock would not be allowed to access water and any increase in competition for forage in the area would be minimal.

#### Invasive Non-native Species

Red brome and other non-native annual plant species are common within the proposed project area. Annual plants would dominate within disturbed areas until perennial species were able to reestablish. The proposed disturbance area (less than 0.1 acre) is small enough that it would not affect the plant community composition in the area and would not facilitate further spread of non-native species.

#### Soils

The ecological site is Volcanic Hills 10-13 in p.z. (R030XC332AZ). The soil in the project area is typically well drained, shallow (10 to 20 inches to bedrock), extremely gravelly sandy loams (zibate family). Soils in the project area are generally coarse and undeveloped. Scarifying and reseeding would reduce the possibility of erosion and soil loss. There is very little slope where the tank and trough would be set, therefore there would be little likelihood of accelerated erosion.

#### Wild Horse and Burro

The proposed wildlife water is located within the Black Mountain Herd Management area. Burros will not be able to access the wildlife water; however, burros will have continued access to water at Basin Well.

Present and Potentially Affected:

#### Wildlife/Migratory Birds

The proposed wildlife water would be located within a wildlife corridor intended to allow wildlife to move north and south across highway 68. The habitat around the proposed development is high quality bighorn sheep habitat and lambing grounds. The area is also categorized as desert tortoise habitat category 3.

Several species of wildlife are known to occur within the area including mule deer, bighorn sheep, coyote, mountain lion, Gambel's quail, ground squirrel, desert tortoise, rattlesnakes, and various lizards. Many species of migratory birds may also use the allotment for breeding or wintering habitat and occasionally stop over to rest during migration. Birds that could nest near the area include: mourning dove, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, black-chinned sparrow, prairie falcon, and spotted towhee. Some species are migratory in other parts of the country but have resident populations within the desert.



The new water source would provide bighorn with a reliable water source and might help alleviate losses during prolonged drought. It would also allow them to use the area for a larger portion of the year. Other wildlife species in the area would also benefit from the permanent water source.

Construction would result in a temporary noise disturbance that would cause wildlife to avoid or leave the area for the duration of the construction. Once construction is finished the wildlife would return to the area. The approximately 0.1 acres of surface disturbance would not impact the ability of wildlife species to persist in the area.

### Vegetation

The vegetation in the project area is a Mohave Desert scrub community. The plant community is dominated by black brush, Mormon tea, and desert globe mallow.

Approximately 0.1 acres of vegetation would need to be cleared to lay out the pipeline, and install the tank and trough. Previously undisturbed areas would be scarified after construction is complete. There will be vegetation loss but cleared areas should re-vegetate eventually. The loss of 0.1 acres of vegetation would not impact the plant community in the area.

### Visual Resources

The project is located within visual resource management class 2 which allows for projects that are visible but do not draw a casual viewers attention. Surface disturbance would be reseeded and scarified to mimic the natural contours of the land. The fence would oxidize and blend with the surroundings the trough would be partially buried and painted to ensure that it blends with the surroundings and does not draw an observer's attention. The proposed project would be compatible with the objectives of VRM class 2 areas.

### **Impacts from the No Action Alternative**

There would be no changes to resource conditions on this area.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

This project would add to the area that bighorn sheep can use year round with access to permanent water.

### **PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:**

BLM employees Ammon Wilhelm (Wildlife Biologist), Paul Hobbs (Soil Scientist), Abe Clark (Range Management Specialist) and Jesse Schreiner (Range Technician), along with Trevor Buhr and Velma Holt with the (Arizona Game and Fish) visited the site on April 25, 2011 to look at alternatives and discuss potential environmental impacts.

This proposal was presented at the BLM/ bi-monthly project coordination meeting held on May 16, 2011 where an interdisciplinary team was established for the project. A BLM cultural clearance was completed on July 25, 2011.

The Hualapai and Fort Mojave Tribes were contacted multiple times, beginning on May 20, 2011, about this project and no concerns were brought up.

Kingman Field Office	Ammon Wilhelm	Wildlife Biologist
	Abe Clark Paul	Range Management Specialist
	Hobbs Don	Soil Scientist
	McClure	Assistant Field Manager
	Rebecca Peck	Wildlife Biologist
	David Brock	NEPA Coordinator/Range
	June Wendlandt	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
	Tim Watkins	Archaeologist
Ranchone	TyBumside	Authorized Representative
Arizona Game & Fish	Trevor Buhr	Habitat Program Manager
	Velma Holt	Game and Fish

Interested Publics: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bighorn Sheep Society, Ranchone

## REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management, 1996. Final Black Mountain Ecosystem Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. Kingman, Arizona.

Bureau of Land Management. 1995. Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Kingman Resource Area Office, Kingman, AZ.

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2007. Black Mountains Bighorn Sheep Management Plan.

## CULTURAL RESOURCE PROJECT RECORD

Project Number: **BLM-AZ-310-11-31**

Other No.:

Project Name: **Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Wildlife Water near Basin Well, Black Mountains**

BLM Case File No.:

State: **AZ** County: **Mohave** Map Name(s): **Burns Spring**

Township **22N**, Range **20W**, portions of **Section 35 & 36**

ASM Quad No(s): **AZ F:11:SW**

Land Owner(s): **Federal**

Agency: BLM, Kingman Field Office

Institution Doing Work: BLM

Person(s)-in-Charge: Ammon Wilhelm, Kingman Field Office

Purpose of Project and Applicant: Survey conducted to ensure cultural resources were not adversely affected by a proposed wildlife water construction project in the vicinity of Basin Well within the Black Mountains

Dates of Fieldwork: July 25&27, 2011

Total Person Days Used: 1\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Resource Use Permit No.:

- **Access and Location Description:** From Kingman, take Andy Devine to US 93 to SR 68 (Bullhead City, Laughlin), at the west end of Golden Valley, turn right on Estrella. Follow Estrella all the way to Jurassic and proceed left. Follow this route to the proposed project area (see map).

Bibliographic Reference: 2001-135.ASM, BLM-AZ-310-11-10, 04-163

Number of Cultural Properties Recorded: none

List Site Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Collections Made: NO

Testing Done: NO

Repository Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos: NO Photo Information: \_

## CULTURAL RESOURCE PROJECT RECORD

Project Number: **BLM-AZ-310-11-31**

INVENTORY TECHNIQUES (if different parts of the project used different techniques, fill out a separate page for each):

Size of Entire Project Area (acres): approx. 2 ac. Crew Size: 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Project Boundary Description: see report map.

Mode: Pedestrian Dimensions (miles or feet):

Inventory Level: Class III \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Acres Surveyed: 2 acres Estimated Percent Coverage: 100 %

Field Methods Used: The area was covered utilizing systematic, parallel transects measuring not more than 20 meters apart.

Discussion (justify techniques and methods used): Methods proved sufficient for identifying any cultural resources in the area. \_\_\_\_\_

### \*SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sampling Strategy (check): Systematic \_\_\_\_\_, Random \_\_\_\_\_, Stratified \_\_\_\_\_, Combination \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of Project Area Sampled: 0 %

Size of Sample Units: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Sample Units: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA (optional if covered in report or other document):

Vegetation Types: Yucca plants, Juniper trees, catclaw, bitter bush, annual grasses.

Major Topographic Features and Locations: located partially within an inner basin within the Black Mountains. The upper end, or terminus of the proposed project, is on a ridge top with views of the Colorado River and Spirit Mountain to the west.

Water Sources and Locations: Rhyolite Spring, Basin Spring, Burro Spring, Little Thorne Spring and Red Rock Spring are all located near the project area. The Colorado River is located to the west at a distance of approximately 10 miles.

Other:

Form Completed By: Tim Watkins

Date: 07/26/11

Approved By:

Date: / /

*Attach map(s) showing site locations, site numbers, project area boundary, all areas surveyed, and sample units and numbers, if applicable.*